

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/605,817

Examiner

Ronald W. Leja

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to IDS of 2/2/2004; Drawings of 10/29/2003 are acceptable.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/2/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Ronald W. Leja
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2836

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The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance: It is the opinion of the Examiner that the Prior Art of Record does not disclose nor suggest the claimed combinations found within the Independent Claims 1, 20 and 38, and thus, such claims and their respective dependent claims are novel and unobvious. The sensing of ground resistance of a ground conductor and displaying the results is known, for example, via Tisdale et al. (6,396,284). Such ground resistance monitoring is accomplished by sending a signal to the cable, sensing a resulting current and calculating the resistance for display. Turino et al. (5,994,892) teach a utility meter for collecting, calculating, storing and displaying data relating to electric power, gas, water and the like. Both current and voltages are displayed as well as resulting power. However, such voltage and current values are not associated with or from the monitoring of the earth ground conductor. It is further known in the Art to monitor the ground and wire resistance associated with the various outlets within a building being supplied from a watt-hour meter/panelboard service entrance. But this does not make obvious the monitoring of the resistance, current and voltage of the earth ground conductor of such a system. The Prior Art does not appear to teach a method or device for a watt-hour meter wherein the monitoring and displaying of the resistance of the earth ground conductor, the monitoring and displaying of the voltage of the earth ground conductor and the monitoring and displaying of the current of the earth ground conductor is performed as well as suppressing transients and displaying the results of the suppressing. Although Tisdale et al. teach utilizing a sine wave and obtaining a voltage for the calculating of the resistance associated with the earth ground conductor, those waves and voltages are utilized for the resistance monitoring step and are not then the additionally claimed current and voltage monitoring steps of

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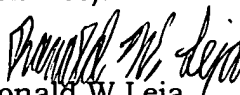
the earth ground conductor. Swanson et al. (5,748,093) teach voltage and transient suppressing monitoring and display, but do not make obvious the voltage monitoring of the earth ground conductor.

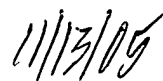
Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald W. Leja whose telephone number is (571)272-2053. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571)272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ronald W Leja
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2836



rwl
November 13, 2005